

# **THE BOOK OF RUTH**

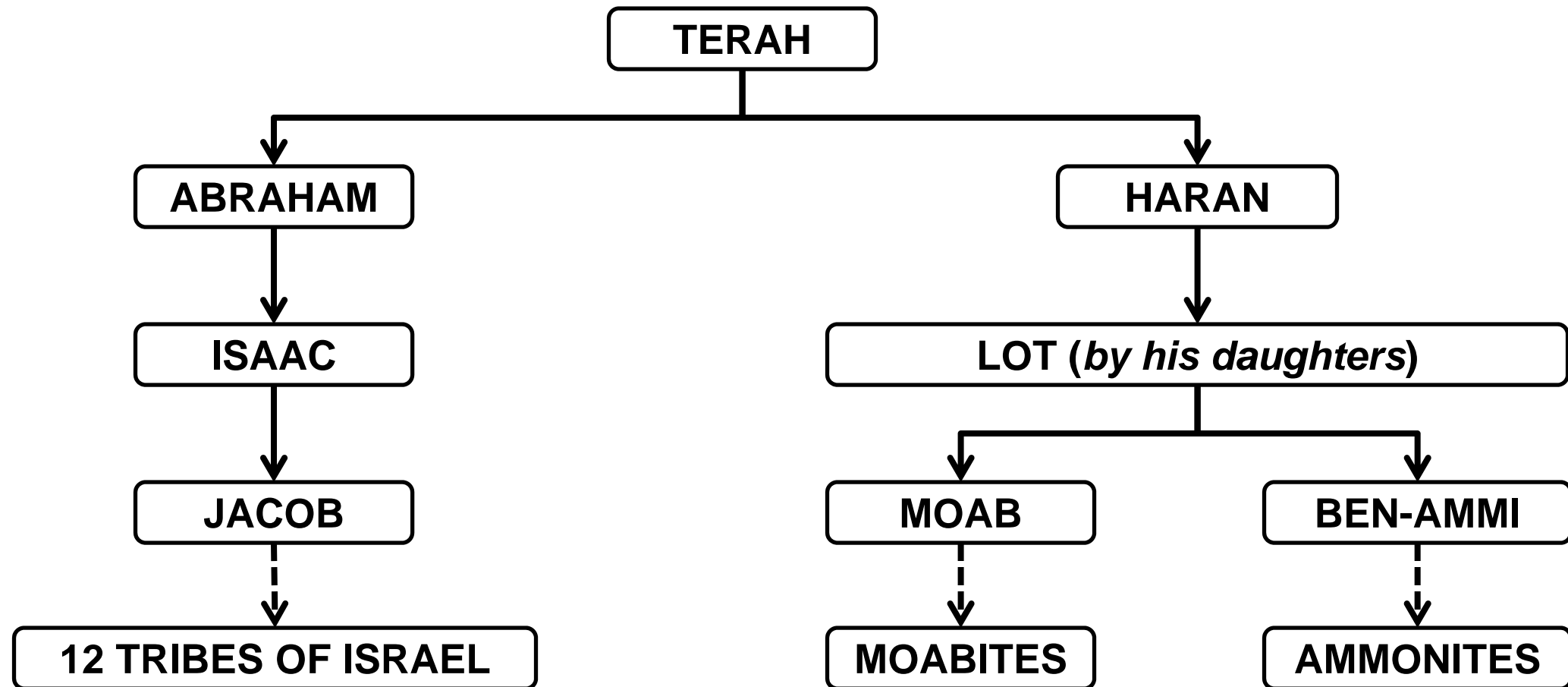
## ***Lesson Two***

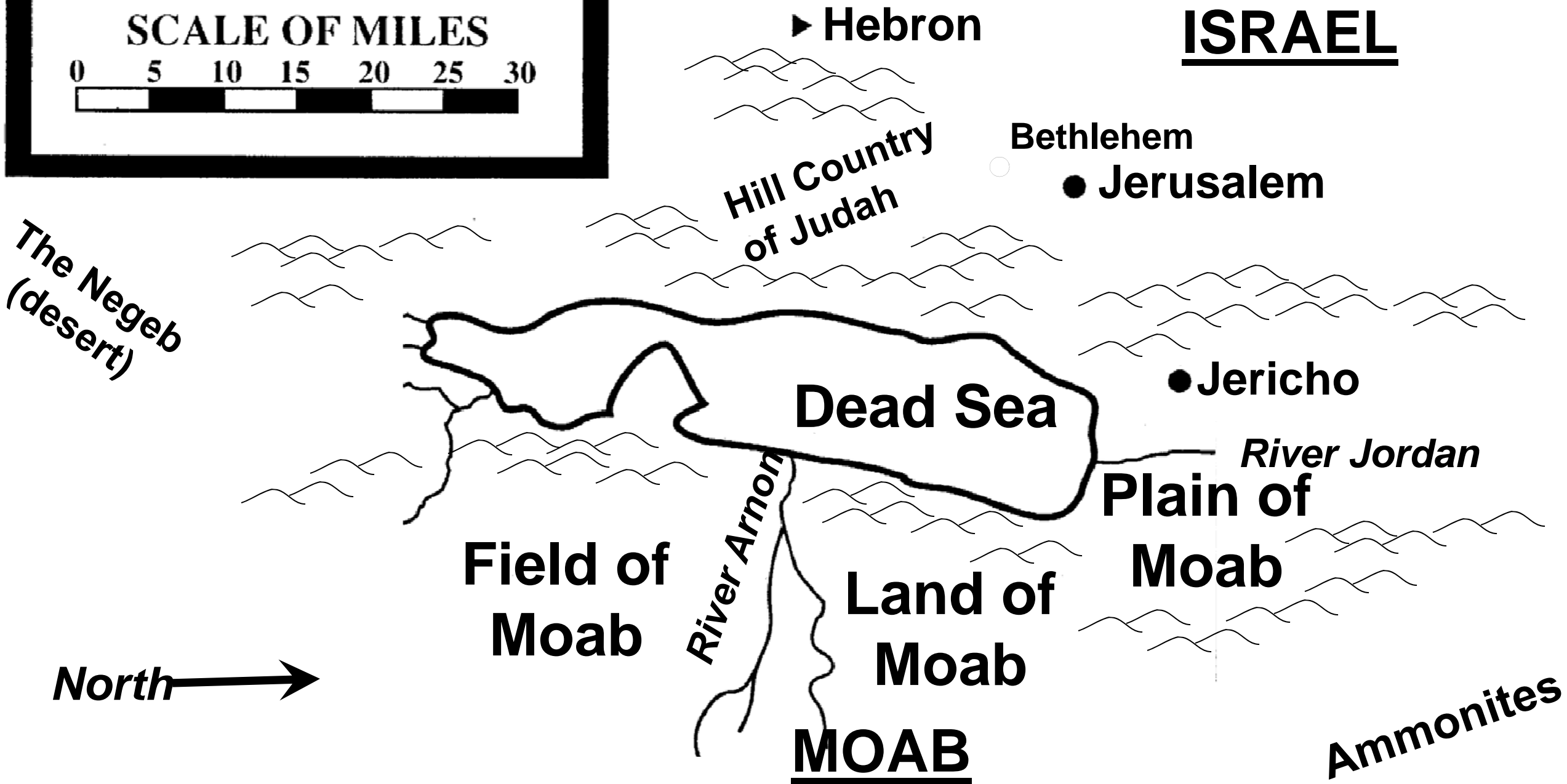
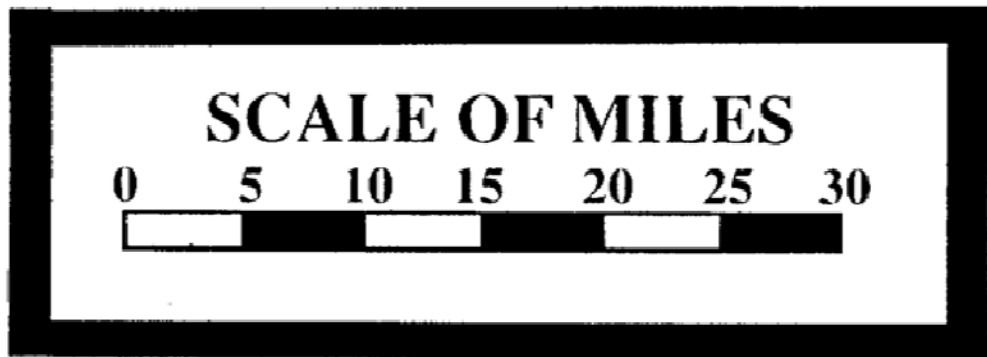
### ***Showing Kindness to a Stranger***

**Ruth 2:1-14**

# The Book of Ruth

## The People, Land, History, and Religion of Moab





# **The Book of Ruth**

## **The History of Moab and Israel**

- Israel and Moab were mostly at peace during the time of the Judges.
- Exception: Eglon, King of Moab oppressed Israel for 18 years during the judgeship of Ehud (Judges 3).
- Several periods of hostility between Israel and Moab during the time of the Kings of Israel and Judah.

# **The Book of Ruth**

## **The History of Moab and Israel**

- When Israel first entered the Land, Moab sent their daughters to entice the Israelite's to sin and idolatry (Num. 25:2).
- Consequently, Moabites were not allowed into the congregation of Israel for 10 generations (Deut. 23:3-6).

# **The Book of Ruth**

## **The Religion of Moab**

- The Moabites adopted many of the Canaanite gods.
- Chemosh was the main Moabite deity—very similar to Molech.
- These false gods demanded perverted sexual practices and sometimes child sacrifices.
- Israel had a weakness for worshipping Canaanite deities (1 Kings 11:7, 2 Kings 23:4)

# The Book of Ruth

## The Moabite Stone

- Discovered in 1868, the Moabite Stone was a monument erected about 850 BC.
- The script on the stone corroborates the narrative of 2 Kings 3:4-27 about the revolt of Moab against Israel.
- The writing on the stone proves the close similarity of the Moabite language to ancient Hebrew—thus how closely Moabites and Israelites were related.

# The Book of Ruth

## Ruth 2:1

- Boaz is described as a very substantial man (*ish gibbor hayil* - אִישׁ גִּבּוֹר חַיִּל)—a wealthy man of valor.
- He is closely related to Elimelech, Naomi's late husband.

# The Book of Ruth

## Ruth 2:2

- Ruth shows humility and deference to familial precedence and authority.
- Ruth is willing to work at a menial task to support herself and Naomi.
- The Mosaic Law forbade landowners from reaping their entire crop—some had to be left for those in need—Lev. 19:9-10; Lev. 23:22; Deut. 24:19-22.

# The Book of Ruth

## Ruth 2:3-4

- Ruth probably gleaned in several fields before she came to Boaz's field.
- These were not chance happenings. God was behind the scenes orchestrating the chain of events.
- More of Boaz's character is revealed. Besides being important, he is also very courteous and gracious to his employees—evidence of a strong spiritual life.

# The Book of Ruth

## Ruth 2:5-7

- Boaz asks his foreman who the new girl is.
- This is probably not a “love at first sight” moment—Boaz is merely curious about a strange face in his work crew.
- The “house” in V-7 probably refers to a tent set up for the workers to take breaks and meals.

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## Ruth 2:8-9

- When Boaz learns who Ruth is he realizes that she is related to him by marriage—and that he has a moral obligation to help her.
- Gleaners typically move from field to field, but Boaz instructs Ruth to keep gleaning in his field.
- Since she is a Moabite and might be the target of prejudice, he instructs his employees to not harass her.

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## Ruth 2:10-12

- Ruth displays an attitude of gratitude, but wonders why she is a recipient of all this favor.
- Boaz admires Ruth's decision to leave Moab and cast her lot with Naomi and the children of Israel.
- He pronounces a blessing on Ruth, not just on her work as a gleaner, but on her decision to seek refuge with the God of Israel.

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## Ruth 2:13

- This turn of events is the best news Ruth has had since she arrived in Bethlehem with Naomi.
- Ruth does not presume on Boaz's kindness, but keeps an humble attitude.
- She recognizes that she is "... a stranger in a strange land." (Exo. 2:22)

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## Ruth 2:14

- Boaz provides lunch for his employees.
- He extends this benefit to Ruth even though she is only a gleaner.
- Ruth is satisfied and has enough left over to take home to Naomi.

# The Book of Ruth

## The Faithfulness of God

- God's faithfulness is constant—it never changes.
- It is always there, even if we can't see it.
- We should not judge others when they lose sight of God's faithfulness.
- Prov. 3:5—*Trust in the LORD with all your heart and do not lean on your own understanding.*
- God is faithful to supply us the means to obey Him.

# The Book of Ruth

## The Faithfulness of God – Scriptures:

- Deut. 7:9
- Psa. 119:89
- 1 Thess. 5:24
- 2 Tim. 2:13
- 1 Pet. 4:19
- 1 John 1:9

# The Book of Ruth

## The Essence of God Rationale

- God is Omniscient—He knows the best possible solution for our problems.
- God is Omnipresent—He is on top of every situation that concerns us.
- God is omnipotent—He can bring to pass whatever is needed to accomplish His will for us.

# The Book of Ruth

## The Essence of God Rationale

- God is Immutable—He never changes any aspect of His plan and will for us—nor does He need to.
- God is Veracity—He is absolute truth (John 14:6). When we know Him we are free (John 18:32). Because He is truth what God promises us is totally reliable (Num. 23:19). He will never leave us or forsake us (Heb. 13:5).
- We are secure in His hands (John 10:27-30; Jer. 29:11).